

United States District Court

For the Northern District of California

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

10 IN RE: FACEBOOK INTERNET
11 TRACKING LITIGATION

CASE NO. 5:12-md-02314 EJD

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS'
MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE AND
APPOINT INTERIM CLASS COUNSEL**

[Docket Item No. 13]

14 _____ /
15 AND RELATED ACTIONS
16 _____ /

17 Plaintiffs Perrin Aikens Davis, Petersen Gross, Dr. Brian K. Lentz, Tommasina Iannuzzi,
18 Tracy Sauro, Jennifer Sauro, and Lisa Sabato (collectively, "Plaintiffs") filed an action in this
19 district on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated against Defendant Facebook, Inc.
20 ("Defendant").¹ Thereafter, the United States Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation transferred to
21 this court a number of similar cases filed in other districts throughout the country for coordinated or
22 consolidated pretrial proceedings.² See Transfer Order, Docket Item No. 1. All transferred and tag-
23 along cases have been assigned to the undersigned.

24 Presently before the court is Plaintiffs' Motion to (1) consolidate the transferred and tag-
25 along actions, and (2) appoint an interim class counsel structure. See Docket Item No. 13 (the
26 _____

27 ¹ The Davis action bears case number 5:11-cv-04834 EJD.

28 ² All docket references are to record in In re: Facebook Internet Tracking Litigation,
5:12-md-02314 EJD.

1 “Davis motion”). According to the Davis motion, plaintiffs in 20 of the 21 of the pending cases
 2 consented to their proposal. The court then discussed the Davis motion with all parties at the initial
 3 Case Management Conference on March 30, 2012, and heard no objection to the relief requested.
 4 As such, the Davis Motion will be granted as discussed below.

5 **I. APPOINTMENT OF CO-LEAD INTERIM CLASS COUNSEL**

6 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(g)(3), the court “may designate interim
 7 counsel to act on behalf of a putative class before determining whether to certify the action as a class
 8 action.” “Instances in which interim class counsel is appointed are those in which overlapping,
 9 duplicative, or competing class suits are pending before a court, so that appointment of interim
 10 counsel is necessary to protect the interests of class members.” White v. TransUnion, LLC, 239
 11 F.R.D. 681, 683 (C.D. Cal. 2006) (citing Manual for Complex Litigation (Fourth) § 21.11 (2004)).
 12 Although Rule 23(g)(3) does not provide a standard for appointment of interim counsel, the court
 13 may consider the factors contained in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(g)(1). Under that section,
 14 the court considers: “(i) the work counsel has done in identifying or investigating potential claims in
 15 the action; (ii) counsel’s experience in handling class actions, other complex litigation, and the types
 16 of claims asserted in the action; (iii) counsel’s knowledge of the applicable law; and (iv) the
 17 resources that counsel will commit to representing the class.” Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 23(g)(1)(A). The
 18 court may also “consider any other matter pertinent to counsel’s ability to fairly and adequately
 19 represent the interests of the class.” Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 23(g)(1)(B).

20 Here, Plaintiffs have proposed a detailed leadership structure for the putative class, which
 21 includes: (1) an executive committee co-led by two firms, Bartimus, Frickleton, Roberston & Gorny,
 22 P.C., and Sianni & Straite LLP, both of which currently represent Plaintiffs; (2) a steering committee
 23 consisting of attorneys Stephen M. Gorny, Stephen G. Grygiel, Andrew J. Lyskowski, Barry R.
 24 Eichen, Mark S. Mandell, William H. Murphy, Jr., and William M. Cunningham, Jr.; (3) a special
 25 advisory committee consisting of former state attorneys general Grant Woods, Mike Moore, Richard
 26 Ieyoub, and Margery Bronster; and (4) a liason counsel, Kiesel, Boucher & Larson, LLP. As is
 27 evident from the papers, the firms and individual lawyers identified above are well-qualified to
 28 represent and assist the putative class. See Davis motion, at Ex. A. Accordingly, the court approves

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1 the leadership structure as proposed by Plaintiffs.

2 **II. ORDER**

3 Based on the foregoing:

4 1. The Davis motion is GRANTED. The following case numbers are consolidated into

5 5:12-md-02314 EJD:

7 1	5:11-cv-04834 EJD (Davis)
8 2	5:11-cv-04935 EJD (Brkic)
9 3	5:12-cv-00370 EJD (Carroll)
10 4	5:12-cv-00667 EJD (Parrish)
11 5	5:12-cv-00668 EJD (Beatty)
12 6	5:12-cv-00669 EJD (Rutledge)
13 7	5:12-cv-00670 EJD (Singly)
14 8	5:12-cv-00671 EJD (Howard)
15 9	5:12-cv-00673 EJD (Graham)
16 10	5:12-cv-00674 EJD (Hoffman)
17 11	5:12-cv-00675 EJD (Seamon)
18 12	5:12-cv-00676 EJD (Thompson)
19 13	5:12-cv-00796 EJD (Campbell)
20 14	5:12-cv-00797 EJD (Quinn)
21 15	5:12-cv-00798 EJD (Walker)
22 16	5:12-cv-00799 EJD (Burdick)
23 17	5:12-cv-00800 EJD (Stravato)
24 18	5:12-cv-00801 EJD (Vickery)
25 19	5:12-cv-00807 EJD (Maguire)
20 20	5:12-cv-00824 EJD (Maloney)
21 21	5:12-cv-00825 EJD (Khang)

26 All future filings shall be in 5:12-md-02314 EJD and shall bear the caption: "In re: Facebook
 27 Internet Tracking Litigation."

28 2. Counsel may identify for the court the filing or transfer or any case which may be

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1 properly consolidated into this action by filing pursuant to Civil Local Rule 3-12(b). All future
 2 related cases shall be automatically consolidated and administratively closed.

3 3. The court appoints the following firms and individuals to represent the putative class
 4 in the capacities listed: (1) Interim Co-Lead Counsel consisting of two firms: Bartimus, Frickleton,
 5 Roberston & Gorny, P.C., and Sianni & Straite LLP;³ (2) a steering committee consisting of
 6 attorneys Stephen M. Gorny, Stephen G. Grygiel, Andrew J. Lyskowski, Barry R. Eichen, Mark S.
 7 Mandell, William H. Murphy, Jr., and William M. Cunningham, Jr.; (3) a special advisory
 8 committee consisting of former state attorneys general Grant Woods, Mike Moore, Richard Ieyoub,
 9 and Margery Bronster; and (4) a liason counsel, Kiesel, Boucher & Larson, LLP. As is evident from
 10 the papers, the firms and individual lawyers identified above are well-qualified to represent and
 11 assist the putative class.

12 4. Interim Co-Lead Counsel shall have the authority to speak for all consolidated
 13 Plaintiffs and putative class members in all matters regarding the consolidated action, including, but
 14 not limited to, pretrial proceedings, motion practice, trial, and settlement. Interim Co-Lead Counsel
 15 shall make all work assignments in such a manner as to facilitate the orderly and efficient
 16 prosecution of this litigation, and to avoid duplicative or unproductive effort. Additionally, Interim
 17 Co-Lead Counsel shall have the responsibility to: (1) brief and argue motions; (2) initiate and
 18 conduct discovery, including, but not limited to, coordination of discovery with Defendant's
 19 counsel, and the preparation of written interrogatories, requests for admissions, and requests for
 20 production of documents; (3) to direct and coordinate the examination of witnesses in depositions;
 21 (4) to act as spokesperson at pretrial conferences; (5) to call and chair meetings of Plaintiffs' counsel
 22 as appropriate or necessary from time to time; (6) to initiate and conduct any settlement negotiations
 23 with Defendant's counsel; (7) to provide general coordination of the activities of Plaintiffs' counsel
 24 and to delegate work responsibilities to selected counsel as may be required, in such a manner as to
 25 lead to the orderly and efficient prosecution of this litigation and to avoid duplication or
 26 unproductive effort; (8) to consult with and employ experts; (9) to receive and review periodic time
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28 ³ Because the lawyers at Sianni & Straite LLP plan to join another firm on May 1, 2012, they
 are hereby ordered to file a motion for substitution of counsel as soon as practical.

1 reports of all attorneys on behalf of Plaintiffs, to determine if the time is being spent appropriately
2 and for the benefit of Plaintiffs, and to appropriately distribute any attorneys' fees that may be
3 awarded by the Court; and (10) to perform such other duties as may be expressly authorized by
4 further order of this Court.

5 5. All counsel, including those for the consolidated plaintiffs, shall register with this
6 district's ECF/PACER system forthwith and shall receive further notices regarding this action
7 through that system.

8 6. The following deadlines shall apply in the consolidated action:

- 9 A. The Consolidated Amended Complaint shall be filed no later than **45 days**
10 from the date upon which this order is filed;
- 11 B. Any Answer or responsive motion shall be filed no later than **90 days** from
12 the date upon which this order is filed;
- 13 C. A further Case Management Conference is scheduled for **June 29, 2012, at**
14 **2:00 p.m.** On or before **June 22, 2012**, the parties shall file a Joint Case
15 Management Conference Statement which includes, inter alia, further
16 proposed deadlines for this action.

17 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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19 Dated: April 3, 2012



EDWARD J. DAVILA
United States District Judge

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